

## Ludacris "Tell It Like It Is"

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### *[Verse 1]*

Things ain't always what they seem or cracked up to be  
Like all these fakin' ass rappers in this industry  
Talkin' bout what they got, and they ain't got a damn  
thang  
How you own three cars, but you don't own ya own  
name?  
Get ya business right boys, the first class is in session  
Get a entertainment lawyer in the music profession  
Start up ya own company, trademark the name  
That's gon' run ya bout a grand so start savin' ya  
change  
Open a bank account quick, and then follow these  
steps  
Sign yourself to yourself and start signin' ya own  
checks  
Hit the booth and start recording at the speed of need  
Whatever gets ya juices flowin' could be speed or weed  
Get it mixed and mastered, pressed up and plastered  
Sell it to ya whole hood out the trunk, ya bastard!  
Show all the non-believers what you destined to be  
And in just a couple years you could be rich like me

### *[Hook]*

But I can't hold my tounge  
I'ma tell it like it is  
This biz ain't all fun  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Give it to ya straight, no chase  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Look you straight in yo face  
And I'ma tell it like it is

I can't hold my tounge  
I'ma tell it like it is  
This biz ain't all fun  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Give it to ya straight, no chase  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Look you straight in yo face  
And I'ma tell it like it is

*[Verse 2]*

See, mostly all your favorite artists got some serious problems  
The money could be the problem, but money can't solve 'em  
Some get addicted to drugs and flat out lazy  
Some taste a little fame and go flat out crazy  
I'm close 'cause those close wanna live off my fame  
And that type of shit alone will drive a nigga insane  
Not to mention all the vultures, the scandalous promoters  
Crabs will try to sue ya, magazines will misquote ya  
Most of these label-heads, they don't care nothin' about ya  
If you stop sellin' records, they'll act like they don't know ya  
It's hard mixin' business with pleasure, so don't play

Me and my crew argue and fight like every other day  
Rappers ain't above the law, but our life is so fast  
That we got a Special Task Force of police on our ass  
All that, and this is really just the start of it  
Hip Hop, you really wanna be a part of it?

*[Hook]*

I can't hold my toungue  
I'ma tell it like it is  
This biz ain't all fun  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Give it to ya straight, no chase  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Look you straight in yo face  
And I'ma tell it like it is

I can't hold my toungue  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Man this biz ain't all fun  
I'ma tell it like it is  
I'ma give it to ya straight, no chase  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Look you straight in yo face  
And I'ma tell it like it is

*[Verse 3]*

What's worse than havin' no money is havin' it and losin' it  
What's worse than havin' some money is grabbin' and abusin' it  
We never took no money from Chingy, thought I was cool wit him  
I wish his ass well, but I don't want nothin' to do with

him!  
Some don't own they publishin', me I never fool wit 'em  
I'm down for my artists, try my best to stay true to 'em  
'Cause outside my label competition is irrelevant  
Unless I'm still in competition with my president  
And believe that I'm supportin' the Hova  
'Cause the industry's shady, it needs to be taken over'  
But the first rule to accumulaton of wealth  
Is Don't trust nobody but ya God damned self!

*[Hook]*

I can't hold my tounge  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Man this biz ain't all fun  
I'ma tell it like it is  
I'm give it to ya straight, no chase  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Look you straight in yo face  
And I'ma tell it like it is

I said I can't hold my tounge  
I'ma tell it like it is  
This biz ain't all fun  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Give it to ya straight, no chase  
I'ma tell it like it is  
Look you straight in yo face  
And I'ma tell it like it is

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